

VIETNAM COURIER

INFORMATION WEEKLY—E.O.: 46 TRAN HUNG DAO STREET, HANOI—DRVN

A BALANCE-SHEET OF VICTORY

DECEMBER 1960. In face of the extermination policy pursued by the Americans and the Saigon quislings, South Viet Nam's various social segments came together in the National Front for Liberation to resist. In Washington, the US ruling circles, reviewing their global strategy, elected Kennedy as president. Their conception of the world and the checking of the national liberation movement were to be the greatest errors of the US; the Kennedy-Taylor-Mac Namara team were going to lick into shape soon the war machine which would enable Washington to attain its strategic ambitions, a machine up to the capacity of the US industrial and financial might.

In the minds of the men in Washington, Viet Nam was to serve as testing ground for all political, economic, and military arms, all the tactics elaborately devised by the specialized departments of the Pentagon. Everything from the powerful US arsenal has been experimented in Viet Nam, short of the atomic weapon which cannot be used on such theatre of operations.

For a decade now, the South Vietnamese people, led by the NFL, have successfully stood up to this colossal war machine. As early as December 1962, Kennedy had to admit the bankruptcy of his policy. In 1964, Newhouse wrote that the Viet Nam war looked no more like a game between a cat and a mouse, but rather a confrontation between a lion and a tiger. Then Washington committed in vain its crack units, a big part of its land, air and naval forces and resorted to the most obnoxious means.

However, neither the South Viet Nam NFL and people on the whole, who had to experience the most excruciating ordeals, nor the DRVN which began only to embark on the socialist path were shaken. It was the US which was shaken, and consequently all Washington's plots failed, which was thrown out of gear. The Tet 1968 general offensives and uprisings compelled the US command to give up once for all its offensive plan, and fall back on a purely defensive strategy. What was considered at the start to be a simple colonial expedition soon became a far-reaching influence on all facets of the American society, and touched off a crisis unprecedented in the history of the US.

Johnson was forced to end unconditionally the bombardments of the DRVN, and Nixon to proclaim that he would not send US troops. Through "Vietnamization," he is seeking at present to resolve this impossible equation: how to win when a platoons strength where a platoons expeditionary force was losing?

(Continued page 2)

Dec. 21

1970

No. 300

7th Year

CHEMICAL WARFARE

MAN THE SOON
10th FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY
OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM
NATIONAL FRONT
FOR LIBERATION

(DECEMBER 20, 1960—DECEMBER 20, 1970)



NGUYEN HUU THO
Chairman of the South Viet Nam NFL and
the Advisory Council of the PRG of the RSVN



HUYNH TAN PHAT
President of the Provisional Revolutionary
Government of the RSVN

TRISOMY 21

Hoang Thi Thu Th., a 3 years old girl, was born on December 7, 1967 in Quang Nam province, South Viet Nam. In this region sprayed for years to chemical sprayings from American aircraft. Her parents having gone to North Vietnam, they could not be in a position to be given medical examination in November 1970. The physicians saw a considerable growth stant, a pronounced hypotonia, an exaggerated laxity of articulations and especially a great mental retardation. She could obey simple commands such as:

opening her mouth, raising her hands, but not more complicated and difficult holding objects to her mother. Her language was very limited.

The culture of leucocytes showed important chromosomal changes and chiefly a case of Trisomy 21.

Everyone knows that chromosomes constitute the genetic support of living beings. Trisomy 21 is an abnormal condition where the separation of homologous chromosomes and chromosomal alterations are at the bottom of congenital deformities and monstrosities, hereditary pathologies. One also understands that chemical substances can provoke chromosomal aberrations: the tragedy of Agent Orange. Dioxin has brought the matter before the international public.

Medical observations have just revealed this terrible fact: apart from immediate damage, the so-called defoliants, dumped in great quantities in numerous areas on South Viet Nam rural and hilly areas, provoke important chromosomal alterations in the local population. People drink water from rivers and streams, eat fruits and vegetable products poisoned by these "defoliants."

Clinically, there have been many miscarriages, congenital anomalies and frequent monstrosities. The discovery of these tragic abnormalities portends gloomy prospects: the future of many generations is at stake. Cancer, leucemia, monstrosities are to be most dreaded. The victims

of toxic chemicals sprayed by the American bombers, by the millions, are condemned to the same fate as the survivors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic tragedy.

The chemical war which has hit many millions of hectares of cropland and woodland in South Viet Nam appears in all its horror:

— It tries to starve millions of people by destroying all crops,

— it makes all life impossible there are whole areas where not a single blade of grass can grow, not a single bird's chirping is heard, and where even insects cannot be found,

— it causes the destruction of valuable soil which brings about a terrible erosion, hence the devastating floods and a quick sterilization of the soil,

— it poisons millions of people and provokes miscarriages and generates monstrous babies,

— it even affects the human genetic patrimony. This is an aggression not only against the private life of the Vietnamese people, but also against their future.

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Are the American rulers who try this chemical weapon aware of all these effects? The answer is but affirmative for it is precisely the American scientists who have conducted experiments on mice with one of these "defoliants" most frequently used in South Viet Nam:

(Continued page 10)



VIET NAM DRVN flag over Washington Square, New York (November 1968)

US CHEMICALS SPRAYED IN NORTH VIET NAM

On December 6, 1970, the US sent a group of planes to spray noxious chemical substances on a populated area in Bo Trach district, Quang Binh province, causing many losses to the crops and cattle.

In a statement on Dec. 14, the spokesman for the DRVN Foreign Ministry sternly denounced this fresh US crime.

Nixon's Dec. 10 Statement, a Provocation Against the Vietnamese People

Says DRVN delegation spokesman

THE spokesman of the DRVN Government delegation to the Paris Conference on Dec. 11 said in a declaration that the statement of Dec. 10, 1970 of Mr Nixon constituted a provocation against the DRVN and the entire Vietnamese people and the most important encroachment upon the sovereignty of the peoples and the norms of international law."

Nixon wanted to make believe that the sole subject of the Paris Conference was to discuss the so-called "prisoners-of-war" problem, while stubbornly keeping complete silence on the question of ending American aggression, the statement pointed out. An extensive propaganda campaign on the prisoners-of-war problem has been staged by the US administration to mask its criminal acts and its attempt to prolong and broaden the war of aggression in Viet Nam and Indochina as a whole, and to cheat public opinion in the US and the world which has been feeling strongly against the US attacks against North Viet Nam.

As pointed out by the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the DRVN Government in their Appeal on Dec. 10, 1970, the DRVN is an independent and sovereign state, a member of the socialist camp. The territory, the airspace and the territorial waters of the DRVN are inviolable. The Vietnamese people are resolved to meet all well-founded challenges to any acts of aggression or encroachment upon their sacred national rights, the statement emphasized.

A Balance-Sheet...

(Continued from page 1)

Bombings and chemical warfare were stepped up, the war extended to Cambodia and intensified in Laos. It was labour lost for the US.

On its part, the NFL unceasingly expanded its influence and kept the initiative of operations. In urban centres, new social forces joined in the nationwide popular upsurge. Beside the NFL, the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces was set up. The Provisional Revolutionary Government was formed. A mate figure speaks volume both of the magnitude of the actions made and the momentousness of the successes achieved in the free areas, nearly one million children go to classes most of the time held underground. With its political and military gains, the NFL with the PRG, became the exponent of the independence of the whole nation; with its social and cultural accomplishments recorded under the slogan of fire and hardware, the free zone portends the South Viet Nam of tomorrow.

The balance-sheet in the last decade is as clear as daylight. The people's war has defeated the most formidable imperialist war machine of all times; the will for independence and freedom of a resolute people has held in check the best armed neo-colonialists; and man with his courage and creative initiative has put the better of the most deadly machines; humanity has triumphed over barbarity. Ruins, mourning, sufferings and sacrifices cannot make us forget this balance-sheet of victory.

Let Nixon try the most heinous atrocities and most treacherous threats. The Vietnamese people's wills from North to South will remain unshaken. They will give fit for fit. They will win, and so will their brothers-in-arms, the Cambodian and Lao people, supported from their bases in India, Thailand, Laos and other friendly countries.

First Physicists' Symposium in the DRVN

THE First Physicists' Symposium of the DRVN, held in Hanoi, was attended by nearly 600 delegates of researchers and lecturers on physics throughout North Viet Nam.

Prof. Nguyen Nhu Kontum, President of the Viet Nam Physicists' Association, delivered a report on the development of this branch in Viet Nam during the past twenty years and its prospects.

The delegates heard 111 reports by scientists in various disciplines, as: theoretical physics, physics of solids, nuclear physics, spectroscopy, radio-physics, geophysics, ultrasonics, and the teaching of physics. These reports included also papers by Vietnamese physicists living abroad.

Prime Minister Pham Van Dong honoured the meeting with an address.

The symposium marked a new turning point of Vietnamese physical scientists to catch up with the other countries within a few decades to come.

Many questions are raised in this regard: How to

advance physics? Stress should be laid on theoretical science or applied science? Considering the present state of shortage, what branches priority should be given to?

During the nine years of the First Resistance War (1945-1954), Viet Nam's higher education was able to open courses of theoretical science.

Nevertheless, after the re-establishment of peace, Viet Nam's physics was still faced with great difficulties in its orientation, organization and staff. Since 1959, because of the war, all relations of the Vietnamese scientific workers with the outside world have been cut off. Meanwhile, the second and third world physicists have been making giant strides in advanced countries in some decades to come.

Science and technology must be closely associated with production and serve the people's welfare and national defence.

It should be developed by priority sectors along a steadfast line and achieve international standard in some decades to come.

As an immediate task, attention should be paid to applied science, to combining modern technical know-how in the world with our own experience in order to directly

(Continued page 9)

The DRVN in Brief

• Responding to the appeal of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and DRVN Government, on December 11, 1970 the Viet Nam Fatherland Front issued a statement calling on the entire people to unite as one man and resolutely carry out President Ho Chi Minh's last instructions in order to step up the resistance war against the US aggression till complete victory.

The appeal said that in the new situation, the task facing the Vietnamese people was to intensify production, be combat-ready, consolidate national defence, enlist the support of the world people's

(Continued page 9)

95th Plenary Session of Paris Conference on Viet Nam (Dec. 17, 1970)

NIXON'S PLEAS DISMISSED BY MR XUAN THUY

Mr Xuan Thuy, head of the DRVN government delegation, rejected the justifications in Nixon's December 10 speech in which the US president arrogated to himself the right to bring war to North Viet Nam at any time: protection of US recon planes and of GIs operating in South Viet Nam. Mr Xuan Thuy commented that such truculence of the White

House master dreaming of a military victory would not pay, as the Vietnamese people would not readily be cowed by threats. "The US is now putting a spoke in the wheel of the Paris Conference and is contemplating to sabotage it totally," said Mr Xuan Thuy. "It must be held responsible for all ensuing consequences."

VIET NAM COURIER

Sept. 2, 1945 Sept. 2, 1970

The D.R.V.N.

is
25
years old

A SHORT HISTORY OF A VILLAGE

(Concluded)

one retired after years of action and office. Doan Tuyet, the 10th Party secretary whom I met 5 years ago, had been transferred to another post. A research and experienced engineer, he had assumed many responsibilities: guerrilla fighter, head of a Party cell, village chief, member of the District Party Committee, member of the District Administration, head of the District Education Department, head of the District Health Department, head of the District Finance Department, Secretary of the Village Party Committee and head of the District Worker-Peasant Complementary Education School. Tuyet was born in 1919, and originally at the age of 12, he had to hire himself as a servant. He joined the Revolution at the end of 1944 and not until April 1945 could he attend continuation classes to finish his primary education. Hai Van, 32, the newest and 11th village Party secretary, took over this function 4 years ago when the war was at its fiercest.

"Early in 1947, I was appointed head of a production brigade which is now the most outstanding one of our commune. It was very difficult at first, but I had got through only primary education. Tuyet organized the production and division of work as well as the distribution of the income was more complex, but I gradually managed to get through it. There was no lack of helping hands..."

"During the years of resistance to the US war of destruction, I was made political instructor of a militia platoon. I was selected for shooting down US aircraft with rifle fire at the village. We were busy round-the-clock with the fighting, production and family life. On many occasions I had to take my little children to the shelter with my rifle rushed towards the combat position. I scored good points in target practice."

Mme Chien (the wife of Vong, head of the auditing committee of the co-op at Duhamlet) was a former guerrilla credited with distinguished services during the anti-fascist resistance. She was wounded in both her arms and her legs in the October 3, 1953 battle. After the re-establishment of peace, she decided to avoid her home at that time, she had felt very shy when asked by the village administration to report on her achievements.

"As I was an only child, people used to criticize my mother for having not joined the guerrilla team," she told me with a candid smile.

I was most impressed by the changing condition of the womenfolk, brought about by the revolution. During the resistance, many of the women had been active as guerrillas. One of them, Mme Tay of Ve hamlet, was now a 38-year-old mother of four. Her husband, an armyman, was still on the active list.

She told me her brief story:

"I was 16 in 1945. I led a guerrilla section and helped with army intelligence. At

that time I was 16. I was 17. I was 18. I was 19. I was 20. I was 21. I was 22. I was 23. I was 24. I was 25. I was 26. I was 27. I was 28. I was 29. I was 30. I was 31. I was 32. I was 33. I was 34. I was 35. I was 36. I was 37. I was 38. I was 39. I was 40. I was 41. I was 42. I was 43. I was 44. I was 45. I was 46. I was 47. I was 48. I was 49. I was 50. I was 51. I was 52. I was 53. I was 54. I was 55. I was 56. I was 57. I was 58. I was 59. I was 60. I was 61. I was 62. I was 63. I was 64. I was 65. I was 66. I was 67. I was 68. I was 69. I was 70. I was 71. I was 72. I was 73. I was 74. I was 75. I was 76. I was 77. I was 78. I was 79. I was 80. I was 81. I was 82. I was 83. I was 84. I was 85. I was 86. I was 87. I was 88. I was 89. I was 90. I was 91. I was 92. I was 93. I was 94. I was 95. I was 96. I was 97. I was 98. I was 99. I was 100. I was 101. I was 102. I was 103. I was 104. I was 105. I was 106. I was 107. I was 108. I was 109. I was 110. I was 111. I was 112. 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A DECADE OF SUCCESSFUL STRUGGLE (1960-1970)

Chronology (2nd Part)

FROM JUNE 1965 TO DECEMBER 1969

1965

June 8: Johnson directly commanded US troops to the fighting.
11: Thieu Ky toppled the Phan Hay Quat Cabinet in Saigon.
16: NFL attack on Bien Hoa airbase.
August 18: First NFL victory over US troops at Van Tuong: over 900 GIs put out of action.

October-November: From Oct. 10 to November 19: Pleine battle over 2,000 GIs and puppet soldiers wiped out.

Oct. 27: Onset on Nuc Man airfield (Da Nang).

Nov. 12: Bau Bang battle: 2,000 GI casualties.

US first dry-season counter-offensive: November 1965 to March 1966 US and puppet forces attacked in 5 directions: northwest, southwest of Saigon, Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh, Phu Yen, towards Baria, aiming at breaking the backbone of NFL regular units. Coming with this military campaign, Washington launched on Dec. 28 a "peace" offensive with a 14-point "peace" plan.

1966

January: Resumption of US bombardments of the DRVN after a temporary suspension.

February 24: NFL success at Nha Do - Bong Trang.

March 5: New battles at Bau Bang.

Battle of US first dry-season counter-offensive: 160,000 GIs and puppet troops knocked out, 1,300 planes and helicopters destroyed or damaged. No strategic target attained. Massive intervention of US troops did not give the expected results.

March 10: Sacking of puppet General Nguyen Chanh Thi, initiating series of crises in the puppet army.

27: Demonstrations in over 100 American cities and in West Europe against Washington's war policy.

April: Many NFL attacks against US military installations in Saigon area, Pleiku airfield (High Plateaux).

US bombings stepped up in both zones of Viet Nam.

29: the 1,000th US plane downed in North Viet Nam.

May 29: NFL carried the day at Pleijeng (High Plateaux), 2,000 workers demonstrated against the US in Saigon.

June 1: Hue students burnt US consulate.

4: 4,000 American intellectuals demanded cessation of US aggression in Viet Nam.

January: Resumption of US bombardments of the DRVN after a temporary suspension.

FIGHTING SOUTH VIET NAM'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

573 delegations were sent abroad, including delegations of the South Vietnamese National Front (the PRG) and its affiliated organizations, visiting other countries and attending international conferences.

The Republic of South Vietnam, entertaining diplomatic relations with 53 countries: the Soviet Union, North Korea, China, the DPR of Korea, the GDR, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, Mongolia, Algeria, the UAR, Cambodia, Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Mauritania, Libya, Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Congo (B), Ceylon, Yugoslavia.

A special representation of the Republic of South Viet Nam has been functioning in the DRVN.

- 15 major parties and fronts which are not in power and to international and national organizations. All recognized the DRVN and the PRG today, as the genuine and legal representative of the South Viet Nam people.

Membership of international organizations' central committees: the World Council of Peace (WCP).

- The World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU). - The World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY). - The International Union of Students (IUS).

The International Association of Journalists (IAJ).

The Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization (AAPS). - The Afro-Asian Latin Amer-

ican Peoples' Solidarity Organization. The Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF). - The International Teachers' TU.

Participation in 31 important international conferences, including:

The Third Congress of WFTU in Moscow (Nov. 5, 1961).

- The Congress of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL) in Budapest (March 31, 1964).

The International Scientific Symposium in Peking (Aug. 26, 1965).

The Congress of WCP in Helsinki (July 1965).

- The Congress of Afro-Asian Latin American Peoples' Solidarity Organization in Cuba (October 1965).

The 5th Congress of the WIDF in Finland (June 1969).

- The Conference of IADL in Belgium (February 1970).

The Conference of WFDY in support of the Indo-Chinese peoples in France (July 1970).

- The Summit Conference of Non-aligned Countries in Lusaka (September 1970).

The World Conference of Students (WCS) in Paris (July 1970).

Over one hundred national committees of solidarity with the South Vietnamese people.

Over one hundred committees of investigation and denunciation of the US imperialists' and quisling crimes in South Viet Nam.

(Continued page 7)

VIET NAM COURIER
21 NOVEMBER 1970

South

February 24: NFL published its political program.

13: Science Faculty students walked out in Saigon.

July 17: President Ho Chi Minh called on the entire people to resist US aggression.

August 5: Nixon visited Saigon, An Khe airfield stormed.

September 3: An Khe airfield was won by winning the war.

October 1: NFL delegation set up in Cairo.

26: Johnson visited South Viet Nam.

27: Demonstrations in over 100 American cities and in West Europe against Washington's war policy.

April: Many NFL attacks against US military installations in Saigon area, Pleiku airfield (High Plateaux).

US bombings stepped up in both zones of Viet Nam.

29: the 1,000th US plane downed in North Viet Nam.

May 29: NFL carried the day at Pleijeng (High Plateaux), 2,000 workers demonstrated against the US in Saigon.

June 1: Hue students burnt US consulate.

16: Women demonstrated near the US Congress building.

December: NFL permanent representation set up in Hanoi.

10: Big anti-US demonstration in Paris in support of Vietnamese people.

20: Many demonstrations held in Saigon and other South Viet Nam towns and cities for the NFL foundation anniversary.

1966

January:

16: Women demonstrated near the US Congress building.

21: Clifford replaced Mc Namara.

21: NFL mounted offensives and uprisings in 120 cities and towns in South Viet Nam. The Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces came into being in Hue.

February:

1: NFL flag hoisted over Hue.

In Saigon, people's forces hit many positions, occupied many quarters. The Alliance of National and Peace Forces was founded.

February: Many NFL offensives against US bases, particularly around Saigon.

From Feb. 22 to March 15: US Strategic Air Force Command in the Tuy Ninh province involving 45,000 men: 11,000 GIs put out of action, 900 armoured vehicles destroyed.

March: Many NFL assaults on US bases at Qui Nhon, Da Nang and in the Western High Plateaux.

15: Bunker replaced Cabot Lodge as US ambassador in Saigon.

20: Johnson met Thieu Ky at Guan.

April: NFL storming of US installations in Quang Tri and Quang Nam provinces. End of US counter-offensive: 17,500 GIs and puppet troops put out of action.

15: Important anti-war demonstration in New York and San Francisco.

May 5: NFL stormed 53 urban centres.

13: Paris Conference opened in Paris between the US and DRVN.

June 19: Thieu decreed general mobilization.

July 9: US troops evacuated Khe Sanh.

August: New anti-war demonstrations in the US.

- PLAF men hammered at many US bases.

September: Extraordinary session of NFL Central Committee.

4: Johnson decided to send 50,000 troops to Viet Nam as reinforcements.

(Continued page 7)

VIET NAM COURIER
21 NOVEMBER 1970

battle you got wounded in. You want to stop over at Thanh Tan and see a relative, don't you?"

"I come from Long An. I was injured during a battle against the Nanks on the 20th last month in hospital returning today to my unit. I am carrying a letter for Miss Zieu, from her brother."

"The woman gave a flip over the horns of the beasts, then went on:

WINDS

Excerpts from a short story by ANH DUC

"That Zieu is a real treasure and he who marries her will be a happy man. As he is good-looking as sweet in character. Right in the midst of this deluge of helter-skelter, the woman peasant brandished her whip at the choppers in the distance:

"There... there you are... you'll get quite a bounce, but that's war is like."

Lan sat down on the ammunition cases. The descending darkness pushed back the dim outline of the vast plain. Lan sometimes seemed to forget the noise of the wind-swept elephant grass. When the cart entered this moving immensity, he had the impression of sailing on a ship. The light of the legendary sectional luminous of the Plain of Reeds was made still brighter by flares in all corners from enemy posts. In the far distance, helicopters whirred and buzzed out, recognizable by their lights that twinkled like dancing sparks from a torch.

Farther away, bush fires glowed intermittently, now flaring up, now subduing into small pinpoints points.

Lan sat alone in contemplation before the soothng scenery. The carts spaced themselves up more and more into a long convoy. The pastoral song of the birds provided a sonorous background for these windy nights in the vast plain. Lan listened to the beats of his own heart and was torn to tears as his whole body was wracked by strange emotions.

"O South! Our Hope. Throbbing in our hearts.

BACH LIEN

December 20, 1970

" Haven't I told you so?"

She thrust her hand into her basket, took out a leaf of betel which she plastered with lime and put into her mouth and chewed with a slice of an arachis nut.

They arrived in Thanh Tan at around eight o'clock in the evening.

Lan tried to recognize the place but every landmark had gone. Not a tree was left standing. Not a roof. The glow he had seen came from the undergrowth. She could even in the dark see the ground under the trees. She said,

"Since you can live in Thanh Tan, we need no reason why I cannot live here. Who will teach the children in my place? Do you know what they did finally?"

"No, just tell me."

"We sent a petition signed by all the villagers to the province asking them to let us live in the village. The Front authorities complied with our request and even sent a certificate of merits to the girl. Wasn't it nice?"

The woman laughed heartily while spinning her yarn.

The wind blew more and more violently. Gusts came crashing against the cart more and more frequently. The soft murmur of the plain land gave place to a continual rumble that sounded like a drumbeat. The woman fanned more steadily, the small lamp of arachis oil and while Lan rammed his duckweed hat further down on his

head. The cart entered a wind-swept boundless ocean. The horses hunched nobly in shaking their heads. The dry thumping of their hoofs hammered the drought-checked soil patiently. The night sky got clearer and clearer, the stars multiplied, of the star-shells shot up from enemy posts, with the helicopters sweeping the plain with their luminous shafts. Lan could make out the rat-tat-tat of machine-guns mingled with the

howling of the wind whereas the whirr of the helicopters was drowned in it and perceptible only occasionally when the wind calmed down. The woman peasant brandished her whip at the choppers in the distance:

"Come here, you rascals! I am not afraid of you because I am in control. You can scare me a bit when I am alone. But come here today and we'll see who will be scared!"

Then she turned to Lan:

"You know, when we travel in groups our boys are always with us to protect us to the security of the convoys. The 'flying fish' (1) will take care not to come near. They've learned the hard way after some very sudden ambushes. They like to give themselves airs but the sight of an AK pointed at them just sends them scurrying away."

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head. The cart entered a wind-swept boundless ocean. A star in front of the window of the car shone brightly. The woman peasant brandished her whip at the choppers in the distance:

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(1) A type of US helicopter.

The woman jumped down and a lad of about twelve darted out to meet her at the opening. "Mum!" he exclaimed with joy and hugged her tightly. Her brother, his arm round his mother's shoulder, then went to toy with the ammunition cases, while uttering small interjections of admiration and envy.

"Duc, will you take this gentleman to Miss Zieu's?"

Lan thanked her and lifted his pack on her shoulder. Casting a look into the underground, he saw children sleepily on a plank platform in the centre of the room. He quickly realized that they had been staying home all alone, one looking after the other, so that the mother might not carry the ammunition to the front.

"Come on, uncle!" Duc urged.

Then he took the lead, weaving his way in the labyrinth of the hamlet now completely cleared of all houses.

Lan followed him close on the heel, listening to his recommendations: "Mind the ravine, turn left, take care of your feet, please don't step into the shell craters." The lad told him assuredly that there would be no shelling at this hour. If anything unusual happened, one would have only to jump to safety into a bomb crater. He assailed Lan with questions. He showed great appreciation when told that Lan had taken part in almost all battles in Saigon. Before the soldier could satisfy the lad's curiosity, the latter slowed down his pace and said:

"Here we are, uncle."

At first, Lan saw nothing. Then he saw a light glow from the underground and heard children's voices reciting their lessons. Following in Duc's steps, Lan approached an opening at the underground.

The reading class continued underneath. The voice of the mistress was high and Lan immediately recognized Zieu's, a somewhat halting voice in spite of her twenty years, and what a crystalline and sweet one! He was all ears now. She was reading a poem:

I asked him:
"Your house?"
They set fire to it!"
I asked him: "Your village?"
"Devastated and desolate!"
I asked him: "Whither?"
"The only path to take,
That of my whole people..."

Whereupon, hissing sounds were heard in the air. Before him, not very far off, streaks of lightning flashed up: artillery. Lan quickly slipped down into a foxhole.

Zieu took his hand and drew him toward the entrance of the shelter. The pupils lined up on the roadside to make way. Zieu slipped in first then helped Lan down. She did not forget to recommend the children to return in groups, not to walk alone.

How cosy the shelter was! Lan stood with eyes wide open. The apple pie order there contrasted so strikingly with the chaos outside. Even the sunshades had solid backs. The desks were arranged in neat rows in the centre of the room. The wood was shining. It looked as though everything intact or of any value in the house had been gathered here. On the blackboard Lan saw the poem the last part of which he had overheard—a fighting poem written in a virile handwriting which was quite familiar to Lan, in the combat trenches through her letters.

On entering the underground, Lan had already felt a pleasant sensation of comfort which grew with every passing minute. The place was much of a surprise to her. The walls were separated the painful sight of heaping ruin and hope, confidence and quietness. Lan was all the happier since Zieu's joy was visible. All

Lan felt a lump in his throat.

"By the way," he asked, "where is mother's grave?" No answer. Raising his eyes, Lan saw the girl standing motionless, her hands on her knees. From her eyes wide open, tears had rolled down. She cast an infinitely sorrowful look at the young man and slowly shook her head without a word.

The gruesome implication of the gaping craters dotting the road flashed through his mind like lightning.

Anger boiled in his heart as he thought of the many horrors of the enemy. He asked no more questions and remained silent for a long while. The memories of his parents' poverty and his childhood were brought back to his mind. Her grey hair, her warm and affectionate voice, the pot of hot tea, the bowl of shrimp soup she gave him... all these things were conjured up in quick succession.

it. Moreover things have got better for some time now. In the past, five or seven bombs were mounted in the day-time, but now the ground barked without let-up at night. They warned us of the air to move out of the village and settle in the hills. Life is hampered as we did not want to be exterminated to the last man... The fact is that at night during the shelling, everyone was out, the ones working in the *dan* (c) groups, the others totting ammunitions to the front. Only old women and we remained in the shelters. You, see, to be able to keep the claim running, the town thought of stopping the class because of the stepped-up bombardments. In fact, the kids had to school at the same time as the soldiers. Up the line, they came here in tattered clothes and with books with lacerated sheets. Of course, there were bomb shelters along the road. But even grown-ups might be caught

fallen. When the raid is over, everyone will hasten to plant a sign on them. There are signs of the Women's Federation, the Peasant's Association, the guerrillas. Ours bears the inscription: "Miss Zieu's school." The kids made the signs themselves what it is really amusing what they have written on it."

The conversation heated up in the underground. Zieu related to him all kinds of news. She spoke of her son and complained of his too short and two scarce letters. He had been wounded, yet she had been kept completely in the dark. Suddenly, glancing at her watch, Lan exclaimed: "Dear me! I can only stay another hour with you. At two o'clock I have to go back to the cover at Thanh Thoi!"

The girl quivered. This idea of the impending parting was tormenting her. Lan fell all the weight of her grief upon her. He wanted to tell her that he would visit her more frequently because Thanh Tan that lay quite close to the enemy area was on the path to the front. And Africa wanted to assure her that this place which he had seen only twice, had aroused in him so much hatred and love that that he had to leave again. He should always remember that there he had to settle his accounts with the enemy because there lived Zieu.

"I'll never leave this place," Zieu told him at last. "Dead or alive, I'll share the fate of my villagers and I'll continue to see to the education of the kids. The only thing I wish you do is to write to me more often so I can know your whereabouts. Write me, even short messages, Lan, please. Tell me of your battles, you don't know how much respect we just to read about them."

Silence was total except for the wind howling at the entrance of the underground.

Zieu then cooked rice on a stove. A number of men had come to wait with him on his trip back. He sat down beside the fireplace. He was delighted by the aroma of the newly harvested rice. When the meal was over, Lan watched with saddened eyes the girl who grilled dried fish which he was to eat with the pressed rice. Its good odor pervaded the room. Several drops of oil fell one by one on the glowing embers. Lan thought with sincere gratitude of the Thanh Tan for such a feast which had cost so many hardships.

The wind blew violently as they emerged from the underground. Hand in hand they went along on the land pockmarked with bomb and shell craters. The myriad of stars mirrored themselves in the water pools.

A cart took Lan away shortly before dawn. The sky had brightened. The wind blew relentlessly in the chill of morning dew...

February 1969
2) Voluntary army carriers transporting supplies to the frontline.

achieving the peaceful reunification of the country.
(Statement by the DPRK Government on Dec. 13)

The Soviet people have been following with keen attention and sympathy the heroic resistance of the fraternal Vietnamese people against the aggressors and according them on a permanent basis a multifarious aid and support.

The message of the Central Committee of the VNPW and the Government of the DRVN to the Vietnamese people is considered by the Soviet Union an important move to further mobilize the Vietnamese patriots to defend the socialist gains, to struggle against the imperialist diktat and all attempts against the independence and liberty of their country...

The Socialist Government will draw the necessary conclusions from the new provocations and the threats of broadening the war of aggression against the DRVN, a brother socialist state. It must be made clear that continued provocations against the DRVN and attempts to brandish new military threats against the people of Indochina will result in further deterioration of the situation in Southeast Asia and in the Far East. All the responsibility for this deterioration will rest completely with the US government.

(Statement by the Soviet Govern-

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ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY DELEGATION VISITS THE DRVN

WORLD SCIENTISTS CONDEMN US CHEMICAL WAR

The invitation of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, a delegation of the Italian Communist Party paid a friendship visit to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam from November 27 to December 12, 1970.

The delegation consisted of Gian Carlo Pajetta, member of the Political Bureau and the Leading Committee of the Party and Head of the delegation; Vincenzo Galatti, member of the Central Committee and Secretary of the Party's Bolgiano Committee; Franco Calamandrei, Senator, and Emilio Sarzi Amodei, Editor of *Unita*, central organ of the Italian Communist Party.

It was received by Le Duan, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the VNWP, and held cordial talks with a delegation of the VNWP led by Nguyen Du Trinh, member of the Political Bureau. The two delegations exchanged information and views on the situation in the two countries, the strengthening of the friendly relations between the two parties and the intensification of the popular movement in Italy in support of the patriotic anti-US resistance of the Vietnamese people, and for the establishment of normal relations between the Italian Republic and the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

A communiqué was issued on those talks, saying among other things that in the spirit of determination and struggle which inspired the Appeal of December 10, 1970, of the Central Committee of the VNWP and the DRVN Government, Italian communists would redouble their efforts to make an internationalist contribution to the action of the socialist camp, of the anti-imperialist forces and the peoples in the world to condemn the US imperialists resolutely and stop their criminal hands. In its tour of the DRVN the delegation of the Italian Communist Party could see everywhere the unshakable will of resistance and fight of workers, militiamen, armenians, and the entire Vietnamese people, as well as their readiness to repel and break any new attack plotted by the US aggressors, the communiqué pointed out.

The delegation of the VNWP noted that Italian support for Viet Nam had become more and more massive, based on a growing unity of the different strata of the masses in Italy, and that it included more and more of the forces of the Italian Catholic movement. It also held the view that the fight waged by the Communist Party, the working class and the people of Italy for peace, democracy and social progress in Italy constituted a positive contribution to the common struggle for peace, national independence, democracy and socialism in the world.

INTENSIFIED US AGGRESSION AGAINST LAOS DENOUNCED

In a Statement dated December 11, the DRVN Foreign Ministry denounced the "new and very serious steps" taken by the US imperialists in their war of aggression in Laos.

The Nixon administration, the statement pointed out, had deployed its modern air forces, especially the B-52s, in massive bombings, of an extermination character against the Lao territory. Only the past 50 days, 65,000 tons of bombs of various types were dropped, inflicting considerable civilian

casualties. At the same time, it has sent Laos 5 battalions of the puppet Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique, a dozen battalions of the Thailand mercenaries and is actively preparing to throw Saigon puppet troops into combined operations in Laos. On US orders, the Vientiane administration has launched repeated encroachments on areas controlled by the Lao Patriotic Forces in Lower Laos, the Plain of Jars-Xieng Khoang area and many other areas deep in the liberated zone of Laos.

Saigon Troops' Rampaging in Cambodia Unpalatable Even to Phnom Penh

THE LON NOL Foreign Ministry sent on December 6 a note to the Saigon puppet embassy in Phnom Penh demanding that Saigon puppet troops stop burning Cambodian homes, reported AP. Indeed, Saigon troops' brutalities have shocked even Phnom Penh armymen.

The same source quoted Brigadier General Sosthene Fernandez, Commander of Military

Experiments made on laboratory animals have formally established the fact that the 2,4-D, the 2,4-5-T and the dioxane provoke certain teratological effects and important internal modifications which are very likely to harm the transmissible paternity.

We condemn the veritable perversion of science and technology which include the massive and illegal manufacture, development and utilization of these products against the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia.

The proof of the direct effects of these defoliants on food plants, forests and the whole vegetation is unquestionable. They result in a generalized famine and immense sufferings among the civilian population whose mode of living is thus profoundly upset. Their long-term effects can bring about a deep disorder, which is very likely to be irreversible, of the ecology, the soil and the climate in vast areas of agriculture.

There has been ample proof today that the defoliants and herbicides directly affect the human beings and the fauna. One has every reason to think that exposure to the defoliants can also generate sight troubles and genetic lesions.

In face of the terrible upsetting of the ecology in Viet Nam, the magnitude of which is beyond man's imagination, we appeal to all scientific organizations in the world, particularly those affiliated to the World Federation of Scientific Workers, to join efforts to organize in diverse and appropriate forms an efficacious assistance to the Vietnamese people, and to study more profoundly the effects of the toxic chemicals used in this war, as well as the means to combat them.

Because all the crimes perpetrated by the armed forces of the United States have their origin in the war of aggression they are conducting at present, we energetically demand the United States to put an end to this war and withdraw completely and unconditionally their troops from Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia.

We, the participants to the Conference, reaffirm our conviction that the use of these products constitutes a flagrant violation of the regulations formulated in the 1925



Vietnam COURIER

SAIGON'S ECONOMIC TRICKS

(Continued from page 10)

tax-control campaign will be carried out for four weeks to severely punish fraud, false statements, etc" (APP, Oct. 16).

In 1969, when "Vietnamization" began, tax-raising measures hit the customs, equalization taxes and "austerity" taxes on 1,500 commodities. Nguyen Van Thien told a UPI correspondent (July 19, 1970) what he thought of "austerity": his responsibilities towards the war against communism. If we constantly rely on our allies, we shall lose our national pride. Thus the US government is responsible for the shift, the whole responsibility for the war to the Vietnamese side in order to lighten the burden which weighs on the shoulders of the American people, but this requires time."

In the name of this "national pride", the government exacted a tax on the tax-payers: from 11.5 billion in 1965 the tax-income reached 67 billion in 1969 and 97 billion in 1970. As war expenditure is skyrocketing, an inflation described by the Western press as "galloping" has come to stay. No doubt that it will take fantastic proportions in months to come.

However the 20 per cent wage boost is immediately followed by a 20 per cent cut in the cost of living which was already 45 per cent higher in July 1970 compared with August 1969. Prices continue to soar and the incomes of wage-earners are reduced proportionately. We must extend that the big shots in the puppet administration are anxious for what they have accumulated during the war. In the end the wage-lift reduces its "recipients" to utter misery owing to the

fact that their living standards have been improved day by day, backward customs and habits have been discarded. For instance, the established rituals for the organization of funerals are no longer observed. No rites, no funeral feasts are required to show

(Continued from page 2)
serve production, while not neglecting theoretical science.

- Scientific and technical personnel should be trained and scientific research institutions be fruitfully established.

- Science and technology should be popularized among the masses, its development, innovations and inventions be given a strong impetus and the considerable strength of the masses be called on to develop science and technology.

Over twenty higher education establishments have opened and trained thousands of physics teachers for secondary schools and intermediate vocational schools, thousands of engineers and cadres for fundamental theory. A number of universities, some for post graduate studies and some of them have taken master's and doctors degrees in sciences.

The higher education establishments are also physical research centres, especially

The DRVN in Brief

(Continued from page 2)

A delegation of the Italian General Confederation of Labour led by its Secretary, Gianni Aldo, member of the CC of the Italian Communist Party, arrived in Hanoi in November last for a friendship visit to the DRVN at the invitation of the Viet Nam Tu Federation.

Recently, the Thai Binh branch of the Faculty of Medicine held a conference for its first batch.

292 doctors in 18 specialties were graduated of whom 5% were women, 33% students of Southern origin and 7% minority nationalities.

Before their admission to the school, they were experienced medical men and women working in various provinces.

On the occasion of Beethoven's 200th birth anniversary, a soirée sponsored by the Viet Nam Peace Committee, the Culture Ministry, the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and the Vietnamese Composers Association was held on December 14, in Hanoi.

Beethoven's works performed by Vietnamese artists included sonatas, a romance, a trio, a string quartet, an overture and a symphony.

On December 9, the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party sent a congratulatory message to the 20th Congress of the Uruguayan Communist Party.

(Continued from page 3)

walls have been sunk and bathrooms and double septic tanks built under these houses, unknown to the landlords. In many families, I could notice some wood furniture, radio sets, bicycles, and wrist watches, which formerly even rich families could not own.

As their living standards

have been improved day by day, backward customs and habits have been discarded.

In many families, I could notice some wood furniture, radio sets, bicycles, and wrist watches, which formerly even rich families could not own.

Like all other DRVN villages, Nam Hong can look forward to the future with confidence.

A SHORT HISTORY...

First Physicists' Symposium...

With regard to elementary particles, the cadres of the State Scientific and Technical Committee and of the Hanoi University have undertaken studies on the proton-deuteron residual diffusion, and have gathered data and theoretical analyses.

Many members of the theoretical physicists' team have published papers in foreign scientific reviews, which represent some modest contribution to theoretical science as well as to production and national defence.

The geophysical group set up in 1958 has been busy with the measurement of fall-out in the air, rain water, sediments, etc. The team of nuclear physicists has conducted experiments on radioactive contamination in the air, sediments, water and foodstuffs to collect data for investigation on radioactive contamination in the air.

They have also conducted analyses by the radioactive method and observed the action of radiations to prevent the germination and prefraction of sweet potatoes. The results are still limited. But for our physicists, the trial has been blazed. And in this respect, this first symposium is that of confidence. Its augurs well for the future.

The publishing of books and periodicals, the establishment of libraries, holding of

NFL CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND PRG RESPOND TO VNPCC AND DRVN GOVERNMENT APPEAL

THE Central Committee of the South Viet Nam NFL and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam on Dec. 15 made public a statement responding to the Appeal of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

"*Viet Nam is one, the Vietnamese nation is one,*" The Statement stressed. "Independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Viet Nam are inviolable and sacred national rights of the Vietnamese people. The US must stop for ever all its wars against the DRVN, withdraw totally and unconditionally the US troops and their satellites from South Viet Nam, out of it: Thieu-Ky-Khiem warlike henchmen, let the South Vietnamese people settle themselves their internal affairs."

MILITARY OPERATIONS

TRUNG BO (ex-Annam)

Phu Yen province:

On Dec. 2, PLAF men stormed the Phuoc Tan military sector, Tu Loc Anh district, obliterating its CP, the command of "Hao An" Unit No 2/1, destroying the signal centre, putting out of action 60 puppet platoons of artillery, mortars, transmission, "Bao an" and scouts; the enemy took over 300 casualties including the district chief and 15 American "advisors."

Khánh Hòa province:

On December 1, regional PLAF assaulted the puppet troops at Xuan Vinh, Ninh Hoa district: 1 "bao an" company, 1 "dan ve" platoon, 4 "pacification" teams and a "dan ve" command wiped out, 2 "pacification" teams badly damaged.

Binh Thuan province:

Night of Nov. 28 and 29, PLAF men hammered at an enemy position at Ta Don, Gop post, and an enemy rescue party: 350 enemy casualties (including 2 companies).

NAM BO (ex-Cochinchina)

Tay Ninh province:

On Dec. 4, PLAF attacked Ban Don military sector, 22km southeast of the provincial capital: 200 enemy troops, 15mm gun and 12 barracks put out of commission all the policemen in the sector liquidated.

Cà Mau province:

On the night of Dec. 2 and on Dec. 4, regional PLAF raided Kinh Cong Nghiep post, Trai Van 24 district, and a group of Battalions 21 and Soni Doc district: a company of Battalion 3, Regiment 33, wiped out, and 2 battalions of Regiment 32 decimated (all belong to Division 21).

Đăk Lăk province:

Regional PLAF overran 2 posts 2 km from An Bien military sector: 1 "dan ve" company written off, 28 other troops captured, 49 fire-arms seized.

Bến Tre province:

Regional PLAF assaulted Xuyen Moi military sector, wiping out the "bao an" company defending the sector, including the company command.

THE creation of a "dual exchange rate" was decided in Saigon on Oct. 3, 1970. It consisted in adding to the dollar official rate (11 piastres) a "dual limited rate" of 275 piastres for transactions other than those made between States.

This massive devaluation was necessary due to the rapid deterioration of the piastre.

In fact the MPC (Military Payment Certificate) dollar fetches 350 or 400 piastres

fantastic statements of the puppet authorities who gave the following plea: "The government is aware that the new devaluation is an evil, but it is a must, just as a surgical operation is necessary for a patient. It will hurt but will cure him" (1).

Devaluation will bring in the same amount of money. In all 84 billion piastres will be collected by the Treasury, but they are incapable of filling the big budgetary gap of about 195 billion (in 1971).

Tan Thieu Khiem's trip to Taiwan and Japan proved unable to rapidly entice foreign investments in. As a matter of fact, no appreciable investments have been made since the carrying out of "Vietnamization."

Needless to say that the general discontent is at a head. Saigon must take demographic measures to "help" the economic weak structure by a wage-lift and an encouragement to the movement of capitals, hoping to parry the inconveniences of a

Aspects of "Vietnamization"

SAIGON'S ECONOMIC TRICKS

in the black market and the civilian dollar 700 piastres or more. This transaction is completely out of control of the Saigon authorities. In its Dec. 5, 1969 issue, the daily *Dien Nguoc* gave the following reason: "Suppose all Americans are honest—but they are never so to the point of not noticing the way their fellow-countrymen and the Vietnamese around them grow rich, which is not quite logical. In fact an American having 10,000 greenbacks is not willing to exchange them at the bank at the rate of 18 piastres to a dollar when car-wreck peddlers, drivers, cooks, servants or other menials are ready to buy him 300 piastres. The most honest American is tempted to exchange his dollars against 10,000 greenbacks, he can obtain 3 million piastres for which he will get 20,000 red dollars (MPC) at the rate of 150 piastres to a dollar. This dollar will buy him 1.5 million piastres, enough for him to live in clover with villa and five or six paramours for only 600,000 piastres per month. The bank account of 300 piastres can be easily changed for red dollars with which he can buy goods at PXs and resell them in the black market and, thus, achieving his dream of becoming a millionaire notwithstanding his honesty."

The Saigon Finance Minister complained that "foreign militiamen royalty paid in foreign currency are the root of the present extension of the black market especially around big military bases. This is harmful to the government of the Republic of Viet Nam because it deprives it of its monetary sovereignty, of a major source of foreign currencies and encourages the illegal export of private capitals."

It was to make good this deplorable state of things that a decision was taken to this end by Saigon on Oct. 3. The previous devaluation (June 18, 1970) had still remember, had led to the present "galloping" inflation, so only little credence should be given to the

let alone the fact that the calculation may turn out to be wrong in practice.

"In 21 months inflation has increased in loss of 93 per cent of the value of 93 piastres" (*Time*, Oct. 12). After the announcement of devaluation, the leading stores closed their shops to meet up with their goods. Within 24 hours, the prices of consumer goods jumped by 15-20 per cent" (APF, Oct. 6): "20 per cent for meat, 30 per cent for eggs, 70 per cent for vegetables" (APF, Oct. 10). The boom will reach 40-50 per cent at year end" (*Reuters*, Oct. 26).

In the meantime the new official exchange rate of 275 piastres to a dollar is incapable of attracting the 100 million dollars in gold and foreign currencies to the black market because the black market rate is about 600 piastres to a dollar.

cost of living which is spiralling.

Let's take a closer look at the way things have happened.

The puppet State apparatus employs some 300,000 civil servants but needs a 1,120,000 million-strong army including 112,000 policemen for its own protection.

The general wage boost of 20 per cent swallows every month 150 billion piastres, or 36 billion per year. Where can this money be found?

First by an ever-increasing tax levy. The Saigon Finance Minister has announced that "since the end of October, a

(Continued page 9)

(1) Statement by Vu Quoc Thuc, Minister of Rehabilitation.

Trisomy 21...

(Continued from page 1)

2,4,5-T (2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid). Their experiments have shown that the product causes a very high foetal mortality rate and malformations on the survivors. Even in a very small dose and a short administration time, the incidence of abnormal features was three times greater with the experimental mice than with the controls of the others. (Report of the Scientific Research Laboratories quoted by Jackie Verret in Effects of 2,4,5-T on Men and the Environment, US Senate, 91st Congress, Washington.)

The Washington authorities are aware of the terrible effects of the scientists' researches. They want to test the chemical weapon on the South Vietnamese. It is humanitarian.

The Washington authorities are aware of the terrible effects of the scientists' researches. They want to test the chemical weapon on the South Vietnamese people, as they have been doing with all other weapons, planes, helicopters, bombs, shells, napalm, electronic engines. Of all these weapons the chemical weapon is the cheapest in human lives and money and yields more lasting effects.

From the time Washington was obliged to withdraw part of its troops from South Viet Nam, the chemical weapon has been developed up to make up for the ineffective conventional ground war. As he does not want a change in his Viet Nam policy, Nixon clinches from no-crimes.

More than ever, a stubborn and courageous US aggression is an imperative necessity for the Vietnamese people, as well as the whole of mankind. down